

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W  
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DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, LY

SUBJ: SECOND CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND ARAB NEWS AGENCIES

1. SUMMARY: DELEGATES FROM 51 COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND ARAB NEWS AGENCIES IN TRIPOLI FROM MARCH 26 TO 31. THE AGENDA WAS BASED LARGELY ON FORMER PRIME MINISTER JALLOUD'S OPENING SPEECH, IN WHICH HE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, AN AFRICAN ARAB INFORMATION TRAINING INSTITUTE, AND BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF AFRO-ARAB NEWS. THE DELEGATES, FEARING LIBYAN DOMINATION OF AFRO-ARAB NEWS, WERE UNWILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE LIBYAN PROPOSALS. THE CONFERENCE CAN BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC RELATIONS SUCCESS FOR THE LIBYANS, HOWEVER. THE SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCIES UNDOUBTEDLY ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LIBYAN HOSTS HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN ARAB NEWS AGENCIES, HELD IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRIPOLI FROM MARCH 26 TO 31. THE CONFERENCE AGENDA WAS BASED IN LARGE PART ON THE PROPOSALS MADE BY FORMER (?) PRIME MINISTER JALLOUD IN HIS OPENING SPEECH. HE PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, WHICH LIBYA WOULD SUPPORT "MATERIALLY AND MORALLY." OTHER SUGGESTIONS WERE THE CREATION OF AN ARAB AND AFRICAN INFORMATION TRAINING INSTITUTE,

IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF AFRO-ARAB NEWS, AND MORE OFFICES OF ARAB AND AFRICAN NEWS AGENCIES. THE BASIC THEME WAS A NEED FOR MORE INDEPENDENCE BY ARAB AND AFRICAN NEWS MEDIA SINCE "IMPERIALIST MEDIA ARE POISONING AND DISTORTING ARAB AND AFRICAN NEWS REPORTS AND ARE EDITING THEM TO GIVE OPPOSITE MEANINGS."

3. ACCORDING TO AP CORRESPONDENT DENNIS REDMONT (PORTECT), THE DELEGATES FELT THAT THE LIBYANS WANTED TOO MUCH CONTROL OVER THE ARAB-AFRICAN NEWS INDUSTRY. CONSEQUENTLY, THE JALLOUD PROPOSALS WERE LARGELY DISCARDED, AND VIRTUALLY ALL RESOLUTIONS WERE WATERED DOWN VERSIONS OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS.

4. THE DELEGATES AGREED TO HAVE BETTER EXCHANGE OF NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICA NEWS AGENCIES. IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE MORE JOINT OFFICES OF ARAB-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCIES AND THAT NEWS TRANSMISSIONS CONCENTRATE ON BULLETINS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY NEWS ABOUT LIBERATION FRONTS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE. THERE SHOULD BE A UNIFIED PLAN OF COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, WHOSE CORRESPONDENTS IN ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE LOCALS RATHER THAN EXPATRIATES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THERE SHOULD BE NON-COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES WHO PUBLISH NEWS OFFENSIVE TO THE ARAB WORLD AND AFRICA. THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAINING CENTER. ALSO, MORE COOPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES WAS URGED " FOR THE SAKE OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION RSYSTEM DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE SUBLIME HUMAN PRINCIPLES, THE STABILITY OF PEACE, THE SUPPORT OF FREEDOM CAUSES AND PROGRESS AND PROPSEITY FOR ALL."

5. AFTER AN INTIAL TWO DAY SESSION IN TRIPOLI, THE DELEGATES WERE WHISKED OFF FOR A TWO DAY TRIP TO THE KUFRA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, BENGHAZI, SEBHA, AND THE AUBARI AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. THAT OUTING, PLUS A VISIT TO THE ARAB REVOLUTION NEWS AGENCY (ARNA) FACILITIES, WHICH ACCORDING TO REDMONT ARE ABOUT THE BEST HE HAS SEEN IN THE THIRD WORLD, OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED THE VISITORS WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. FROM A PUBLIC RELATIONS STANDPOINT, THE CONFERENCE UNDOUBTEDLY WAS A SUCCESS FOR THE LIBYAN ORGANIZERS.

6. THE CONFERENCE ALSO WAS A SUCCESS FOR TASS AND

THE HUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY TANJUG. TASS WAS REPRESENTED BY AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NAMED ROSSEV, AND ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL REPRESENTED TANJUG. BOTH WORKED VERY HARD NOT ONLY AT INFLUENCING THE TENOR OF THE DISCUSSIONS, BUT ALSO MAKING USEFUL CONTACTS FOR THE FUTURE. WESTERN NEWS SERVICES THAT SENT CORRESPONDENTS INCLUDED AP, REUTERS, AFP, AND INTER PRESS SERVICE (IPS), AN ITALIAN THIRD WORLD NEWS AGENCY.

7. SEVEN AMERICAN "CHILDREN OF GOD" WERE SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE CONFERENCE. THEY PERFORMED TWICE AT THE CONFERENCE AND PASSED OUT THEIR RELIGIOUS PROPAGANDA. WHILE MUCH IN FAVOR WITH THE LIBYAN ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE "CHILDREN OF GOD" APPARENTLY WERE NOT APPRECIATED BY MOST OF THE DELEGATES. CARLE

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